

# DFS QUARTERLY

A PUBLICATION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF FIRE SERVICES • STEPHEN D. COAN, STATE FIRE MARSHAL • VOL. 4 • ISSUE 2 • JUNE, 1999

## Western Massachusetts Family Fire Safety Day



The Department of Fire Services and area fire departments present Western Massachusetts Family Fire Safety Day on **June 27, 1999 11:00 – 4:00** at the Eastern States Exposition, the “Big E” Fairgrounds in West Springfield, Massachusetts. Parking is free. We hope that the local fire departments will not only participate but help to get the word out so the public will attend.

Events and activities will include:

- Fire Apparatus Parade  
By the New England Association of Fire Chiefs – 11:00
- Patches and Pumper
- Fire safety demonstrations
- Pluggie the Talking Fire Hydrant
- Fire Safety House
- Learning to use fire hoses
- Try on junior fire gear
- Kitchen fire safety demonstration
- Interactive demonstrations and activities for children
- Special guest Sparky® the Fire Dog

Flyers are available from the Public Education Unit for distribution. ♦

## Update on CMR 2: Fireworks

There have been a number of recent changes to 527 CMR 2: Fireworks. These changes affect distances and shell sizes, and may have a major impact on site selection for supervised displays of fireworks. In order to assist fire departments to properly implement this revised regulation, the Office of the State Fire Marshal is offering pre-show site inspections. This will help the local fire official to determine whether a planned fireworks show is compatible with a particular site. The new table of distances does have an impact on the type of show that may take place. If you are planning on a fireworks show, now is a good time to make sure that the site works for the type of show the community is planning. Just because

the fireworks have always been held at a particular location does not mean it is still adequate under the revised regulation. If you have any questions or would like to schedule a site inspection, please call the OSFM Compliance and Enforcement Unit at (978) 567-3300. ♦



## From the Desk of the Fire Marshal

*Stephen D. Coan*

### Fireworks: Enforcement and Education

Fireworks season is here. The Fire and Explosion Investigation Section is already hard at work interdicting illegal shipments of fireworks into Massachusetts. The Code Compliance and Enforcement Unit is working to see that the supervised fireworks displays will happen safely at sites that meet the new requirements of the 527 CMR 2: Fireworks. The Hazardous Devices Unit is working with local S.A.F.E. Educators to teach youngsters about the dangers of fireworks in order to prevent injuries. I have asked the Highway Commissioner, Matt Amorello to set up digital signs on key highways on certain weekends to alert travelers not to bring illegal fireworks into Massachusetts from New Hampshire. Secretary Perlov has made prevention of fireworks injuries a major objective this year. Members of the public should feel free to confidentially call the Arson Hotline at 1-800-682-9229 if they have any information about someone illegally selling or manufacturing fireworks.

### Model Fire Code

Jake Nunnemacher joined us in late May as the second fire protection engineer. Now that both fire protection engineers are on board,

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## From the Fire Marshal

*Continued from page 1*

we are able to move forward on the cornerstone of the original plan to create the Department of Fire Services: a model fire code. Fire prevention officers and other regulators have long complained about how difficult it is to administer the "homegrown" fire prevention code we have in Massachusetts. It has long been thought that the state would be better served by adopting a national fire code as the infrastructure of our fire prevention code and strengthening it by amending it to meet the needs of Massachusetts. This will allow for a more standardized approach and a more efficient way to keep the fire code current as time goes by. A current example of this is the electrical code. The NFPA Electrical Code was adopted by reference in our CMRs and amendments have been made where the Board of Fire Prevention Regulations thought it was necessary to protect the public. I have formed a task force, the

Model Fire Code Committee, with representatives from fire service organizations to take an objective look at what national codes are available and to perform a chapter by chapter and section by section comparison with the existing fire prevention regulations. Fire Protection Engineer Timothee Rodriguez is the project manager. The Model Fire Code Committee has an aggressive schedule to meet in order to have a final proposal to present to the Board of Fire Prevention Regulations in June, 2001.

### **Code Enforcement in Technical Services Section**

Responsibility for enforcing the marine fueling and fireworks codes has been transferred from the state police assigned to the Fire and Explosion Investigation Section to the Code Compliance and Enforcement unit in the Technical Services section of the Office of the State Fire Marshal. The original plan for the Department of Fire Services included having code

enforcement handled by the code compliance officers in the Office of the State Fire Marshal. It has taken us a few years to fully staff up the Division Director, the code compliance officers, the blasting manager and the fire protection engineers. I greatly appreciate the willingness of the state police under the leadership of Lt. Fay to handle this important function during the time it took to fully staff up the Technical Services section. I would like to acknowledge the professionalism that Sgt. Viola, Troopers Mark Horgan, Todd McGhee, Steve Leurini, Nancy Krue, and Gerry McLaughlin brought to their duties in Code Enforcement. We are fortunate that they will be able to apply that same dedication to other projects and duties within the Fire and Explosion Investigation Section, but our staff is now complete and we look forward to providing you with a full range of public safety services. ♦

## Fire Prevention Week

**October 3-9, 1999**

The goal of Fire Prevention Week is to bring important fire safety messages to the forefront of people's attention. Smoke alarms give precious time to escape, but too many people die because they don't know how to escape when they can't see, can't breathe, or can't use the usual exits. Fire Prevention week takes place each year during the week of October 9, the anniversary of the Great Chicago Fire in 1871. This year Fire Prevention Week is October 3-9. Fire safety educators throughout the country are encouraged to work with school children to develop home escape plans and then to put those plans into action during Fire Prevention Week. ♦



# HAZARDOUS MATERIALS RESPONSES

The Hazardous Materials Emergency Response Division of the Department of Fire Services has responded to 44 incidents since July 1, 1998. Thirty-four were Tier 1 – Hazard Risk Assessment and ten

were Tier 2, Entry and Mitigation. The break down by response district was, District 1 – 12, District 2 – 8, District 3 – 3, District 4 – 0, District 5 – 4, and District 6 – 17.

The following is a list of the locations and type of incidents the Hazardous Materials Response Division has responded to this year:

DATE	LOCATION	TYPE	TIER
01/05/99	Methuen	Canceled	1
01/12/99	Attleboro	Nitric Acid Release - Residence	2
01/12/99	Brookline	Sodium Ferrocyanide - Public Way - Residence	1
01/21/99	Rockland	Toluene & Hexane - Commercial Business	1
02/15/99	North Adams	Acid Release - Business	2
03/31/99	Milton	Chemical Odor - Public Library	1
04/12/99	Sheffield	Chemical Odor - High School	2
04/18/99	N. Reading	Boron Trifluoride – Transportation Company	2
04/30/99	Dennis	Pepper Spray - Commercial Business	1
05/11/99	North Attleboro	Ammonia Leak – Commercial Business	2

## CAMEO '99 Workshop

EPA's Chemical Emergency Preparedness and Prevention Office, NOAA's Office of Response and Restoration, and the Arizona Emergency Response Commission will hold the biannual CAMEO '99 Workshop in Phoenix, AZ, May 25-28, 1999. The workshop provides an opportunity for first responders to receive training and discuss the numerous aspects of information management and chemical accident preparedness, planning, and response issues. For more details, visit the CAMEO web site at [www.nsc.org/ehc/cameo.htm](http://www.nsc.org/ehc/cameo.htm). ♦

## Fire Officer I Skills Development Training

This 15-day program introduces students to selected objectives of NFPA 1021, Fire Officer Level I. The FOISD program is targeted to those members of the fire services who were recently promoted to the position of first line supervisor within their agency. On Tuesday, March 25, 1999 there were 21 students who graduated from this program. ♦

## Recruit Graduation

The Recruit Training Program is an intense 55 training day program conducted under the guidance of the Massachusetts Fire Training Council. Graduating firefighters are trained according to the NFPA 1021 standards and graduate as Certified Firefighter I/II.

### ***Recruit Class #129 – April 16, 1999***

There were 43 students that graduated with Class #129 on April 16, 1999. Graduating firefighters were from the following communities: Attleboro, Belmont, Beverly, Billerica, Chelsea, Chelmsford, Easton, Everett, Haverhill, Holyoke, Lexington, Melrose, Methuen, Milford, North Andover, Northampton, Norton, Reading, Saugus, Shrewsbury, Somerville, Wakefield, Westwood, and Wilbraham.

### ***Recruit Class #130 – June 25, 1999***

There will be 44 students graduating with Class #130 on June 25, 1999.

Graduating firefighters represent the following communities: Avon, Billerica, Burlington, Chelsea, Dracut, Falmouth, Hingham, Lawrence, Longmeadow, Lowell, Maynard, Nahant, Natick, North Reading, Plainville, Revere, Stoneham, Stoughton, Sudbury, Walpole, Watertown, Westborough, Wilbraham, and Yarmouth. ♦

## Chief Fire Officers Graduate May 20, 1999

The Department of Fire Services, Massachusetts Firefighting Academy, in cooperation with the University of Massachusetts Donahue Institute has developed the Chief Fire Officer Management Training Program. This program is designed to provide instruction on the non-fire suppression/prevention aspects of the NFPA Standard 1021 for the Fire Officer II, III and IV levels. Forty students graduated from this program on Thursday, May 20, 1999. ♦

# Recent State Fire Marshal Advisories

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*April 26, 1999*

## Knox Boxes

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The DFS Legal Department has conducted research as to whether fire chiefs have the authority to mandate the use of Knox Box key security systems in their cities or towns. They find there are no laws or regulations in the Commonwealth pertaining to the use of Knox Boxes. However, fire chiefs may obtain the authority to mandate the use of Knox Boxes if their city or town implements a local ordinance or bylaw on this matter.

Many communities already have such local ordinances in place. For example, one community ordinance states that any property that is tied into the municipal fire alarm system must have a Knox Box in which the keys to the facility are left in order for the fire department to gain access to the premises.

*April 26, 1999*

## Fines for Illegal Burning

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In response to a question raised in regard to what fines are applicable for illegal burning and whether a fire department may recover costs for illegal burning or legal burning which burns out of control, DFS General Counsel offers the following opinion:

Chapter 48 section 13 governs the setting of open air fires, conditions and restrictions and penalties for violation.

Section 13 provides in summary that:

- No person shall set, maintain or increase a fire in the open air at any time except by permission of the fire chief or forest warden of the city/town (in districts only by a forest warden.)
- Permission or permit may be oral or in writing containing date granted, dates covered, name, address and conditions and restrictions.
- Exemptions for adults (over 18) to light a reasonable fire for cooking without permission, on sand, gravel or on tidewaters if fire is contained by rocks, metal, etc. (non-flammable material.)
- Penalties for violations of chapter 48 section 13 shall be not more than \$500.00 plus the cost of suppression, imprisonment for more than one month or both.

Therefore, the head of the fire department may file a complaint in the district court alleging no permit or violation of the permit and seeking both fines plus cost of suppression for illegal burning. The increased fines (to \$500.00 plus cost of suppression), were added by statute and made effective July 18, 1997. Both the amount of the fine as well as recoverable costs will be determined by the judge at trial.

Legal burning which burns out of control is probably not actionable unless there is a sufficient showing of negligence rising to criminal conduct which can be used to infer intent

necessary for a finding of guilty.

Finally, all fires received under chapter 48 section 13 shall be expended by the forest warden, under direction of the selectman, for trimming brush, fire patrols or for preventing the spread of fire (see chapter 48 section 24).

*April 26, 1999*

## CDL Exemption for Firefighters

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In response to a question asked as to whether a firefighter is required to hold a CDL (Commercial Drivers License) in order to operate fire apparatus, if that vehicle is not going to or returning from a fire, the following answer and opinion is provided by DFS General Counsel:

NO. A CDL is not required for firefighters to operate fire apparatus at any time while performing official duties. 540 CMR 2.06(6)(A)(ii) states in pertinent part, "Drivers may, with a class D license, operate emergency or fire equipment...such exempt drivers shall include...a member of a volunteer or paid fire organization, when either responding to an emergency or otherwise performing official duties..."

Therefore, any firefighter holding a valid class D license may operate any fire equipment without a CDL, in performance of all official duties as directed by the head of the fire department. ♦

# MFIRS CORNER

## Coding MFIRS for Summertime Incidents

### Fireworks

Enter **Code 63- Fireworks** for *Form of Heat of Ignition* on all fires caused by fireworks. Please submit any fires caused by fireworks, even if they do not result in a dollar loss. Your cooperation will help us explain the dangers associated with these devices.

### 30 Incidents Involving Fireworks in 1998

According to the 1998 Massachusetts Fire Incident Reporting System (MFIRS) data, there were 30 incidents reported that involved fireworks. One civilian was injured and there was an estimated \$5,865 in property damages. Four (4) of the fireworks- caused fires in 1998 took place during the week of 4<sup>th</sup> of July.

### Gas Grills

Along with fireworks, gas grills will be among the seasonal problems for fire departments. To accurately code a gas grill fire, please note the following:

Enter **Code 26- Open Grill** for *Equipment Involved in Ignition*

Enter **Code 65- Fuel** for *Form of Material First Ignited*

Enter **Code 14- LP-gas** for *Type of Material First Ignited*

Also, if the make and model of the equipment is unknown, please write *gas grill* in the space provided for equipment make or model.

### 155 Incidents Involving Grills in 1998

In 1998, there were 155 fire and explosion incidents reported to the Massachusetts Fire Incident Reporting System (MFIRS) involving open fired grills. These incidents caused four civilian injuries, two firefighter injuries and an estimated dollar loss of \$197,682. Eighty-one percent (81%) of

these incidents occurred in the months of May to September.

Of the 155 grill incidents, 105 of the grills were gas grills. Gas grill fire incidents injured two civilians and caused an estimated \$35,929 in damage. Eighty-three percent (83%) of the gas grill fires in Massachusetts occurred between May and September.

### Data Collection

Just a reminder, **the first six months of 1999 data is due by 7/15/99.**

Congratulations to the many communities that are up to the minute in reporting fire incidents. Keep up the good work.

Thanks to all the participants of the MFIRS Trainings in West Barnstable, Worcester and Stow. **The next MFIRS Training is Tuesday June 8, 1999 at 0900 in Stow.** Please call MFA to register at (978) 567-3200 and use the standard MFA registration forms.

Any questions? Please call Amy at (978) 567-3382.

Hope to see everyone at the DFS Summer Camp! Have a great summer!

### The New NFIRS

NFIRS 5.0 is a modified and improved National Fire Incident Reporting System which has been designed as a tool for fire departments to report and maintain computerized records of fires and other fire department incidents in a uniform manner. NFIRS 5.0 was developed by the United States Fire Administration (USFA) in partnership with the National Fire Information Council (NFIC).

The New NFIRS 5.0 system, in addition to many code improvements, provides additional modules to meet the increasing diversity and demands of fire departments today. It has been designed to expand the collection of data beyond fires to include a full

range of fire department activity on a national scale. Included is an expanded utility for users of the system at both the state and fire department levels. The recent addition of an Emergency Medical Services (EMS) module to the system along with the inclusion of Department Apparatus, Wildland and Personnel modules ensures greater usefulness of the system.

NFIRS 5.0 will enable the Fire Service to examine trends on a local, state and national level. The resulting information is used to help reduce the needless loss of life and property by fire throughout the United States.

### Summary of the Important Points:

- More fields, fewer codes to choose from. An example of this is fixed property use. There are nine choices for fixed property use within the residential category in NFIRS 5.0. In the current version, there are 46 choices.
- Merging of codes: version 4.1 required a distinction between codes ending in 9 (not otherwise classified) and codes ending in 0 (insufficient information to classify further). Proper distinction between these two codes is often not observable.
- National Plus One Codes permit users to add a digit to the national code to capture more detailed information about a particular code. By adding A thru Z or 0 thru 9 to the 1-, 2- or 3-digit code, it can be expanded at the state or local level to capture additional information. An example of this is children playing with lighters. An additional digit could be added for the fire department to track the type of lighter: (1)butane lighters (2)liquid fueled lighters (3)fire place lighters.
- Multiple factors contributing to the cause of the fire are captured for the first time. This allows identification of

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## MFIRS CORNER

*Continued from page 5*

- juvenile fire setters, possible gang involvement in fires, alcohol and cigarette interaction as well as drugs and youth involvement by age categories. It also allows you to capture both the space heater and the overloaded extension cord.
- Abbreviated paths through the system for nuisance fires with no losses or casualties are now available. Some examples of this are food on stove, dumpster fires, and chimney fires. Using a basic incident form, these fires can be reported with as little as three look-ups. This may represent the majority of all fire incidents in many jurisdictions.
  - Information on casualties has been expanded to provide a better understanding of the relationship of the casualty to factors contributing to injury as well as the nature and cause of injuries. Human factors are: asleep, impaired, or restrained. Multiple contributing factors can be traced, such as casualty was unfamiliar with the structure and the exit was blocked by fire.
  - Version 4.1 introduced the separate firefighter casualty report. Since there have never been any changes to the civilian casualty report until now, Version V has a major upgrade to better track how and why civilians are hurt in fires.
  - Incident Type will give a better representation of the situation found. The codes are three digits long. An example of this is 113 cooking fire, confined to container; 114 chimney or flue fire, confined to container. This is an idea taken from the Boston Fire Incident Reporting System.
  - The address is now formatted to allow computerized queries and street based address matching for GIS (Geographic Information System) purposes.
  - Fire losses are now broken into property and contents to better define structure losses. Pre-incident value will be captured as an optional data element.
  - We are still trying to figure out how to adapt the new NFIRS to collect insurance information which is required by MGL c148 s2.
  - Information on equipment involved in starting fires has been greatly expanded. Detailed tracking of specific equipment involved in fire ignitions is possible. Equipment has been broken down into three elements: Equipment, power source and portability, making it easier to track kerosene heater fires, for example.
  - Detector information includes presence, type, power supply, operation, effectiveness and failure reasons; we'll finally be able to document detectors with missing batteries or disconnected hard-wired detectors.
  - **Implementation plan is still being formulated. Our target start date is 1/1/2001.**
  - There are still issues of paper based vs. electronic data submission. These modules work well in a computerized point and click environment but do not convert well to a simple form.
  - The U. S. Fire Administration has been delayed in finalizing Version V for state NFIRS Managers to review and evaluate. This has delayed the Fire Data and Publication Unit in bringing this to the Massachusetts fire service.
  - For more information on the New NFIRS, look at [www.nfirs.fema.gov](http://www.nfirs.fema.gov). ♦

## Light the Night For Sight Walkathon at Riverside - The Thrill Park

Prevent Blindness Massachusetts is an organization that works hard to educate the public about the dangers of fireworks. They have organized the second annual *Light the Night for Sight Walkathon* which has two goals: one is to raise money to support the educational efforts of Prevent Blindness Massachusetts, and the other is to focus the public's awareness on the danger of fireworks on the weekend before the Fourth of July. The Walkathon will take place on Sunday, June 27, 1999 at Riverside - The Thrill Park in Agawam, Mass. The 3/4 mile loop around the speedway will start at 9

a.m. Check-in time is 8:30 a.m. Walkers will be able to leave and re-enter the park if they want to attend both the Western Mass. Family Fire Safety Day and the Prevent Blindness Light the Night for Sight Walkathon. For information call (617) 489-0007 or (413) 586-6558 or the Prevent Blindness website at [www.preventblindness.org](http://www.preventblindness.org).

### **Fireworks Educational Materials**

Prevent Blindness has some excellent educational materials for both children and adults on the dangers of fireworks. They have a quiz that is a great

educational tool for use in the classroom or in a newspaper article.

The Office of the State Fire Marshal also has a one-page, 2-sided fact sheet on fireworks - Leave the Fireworks to the Pros. It is available on our website or by calling the office at (978)567-3380. ♦



# NEWS FROM CPSC

The following are excerpts from press releases issued by the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) regarding products recalled for fire or burn hazards. Consumers should immediately stop using any of these products and contact the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission or the manufacturer for instructions on how to proceed.

**PRODUCT:** Pistol Grip Soldering Guns - Homier Distributing Co., of Huntington, Ind., is recalling about 2,500 Pistol Grip Soldering Guns, model #PGSI30. They have either a red or black plastic body and were sold in a blister pack labeled in part: "HDC HOMIER DISTRIBUTING . . . PISTOL GRIP SOLDERING GUN . . . 30/35 watts . . . 110/120 volt. . . 700 deg tip stand. . . Manufactured in China for Homier Distributing Co., Inc." The only labeling on the soldering gun itself is "110/120 volts, 35 watts." Homier Distributing Company sold these soldering guns at trade and convention shows nationwide and through its two retail stores in Indiana from May 1998 through December 1998 for about \$4.

**PROBLEM:** The wiring on these soldering guns is undersized and the power cord could separate from the soldering gun. Use of these soldering guns poses a fire and shock hazard.

**INCIDENTS/INJURIES:** None reported.

**PRODUCT:** Oster Hair Dryers - Sunbeam Products Inc., of Boca Raton, Fla., is recalling about 8,000 Oster HD120-model hand-held electric hair dryers. These hair dryers were sold only in Puerto Rico. They are white with red



and black switches. The model number, HD120, is embossed on the plastic handle of the dryer. "Oster" and "DANGER-ELECTROCUTION POSSIBLE IF USED OR DROPPED IN TUB" also are written on the hair dryers. Retailers in Puerto Rico, including Supermercados Amigo, sold these hair dryers from January 1994 through June 1998 for about \$15.

**PROBLEM:** These hair dryers do not have a ground fault circuit interrupter (GFCI) or similar device to reduce the risk of electrical shock or electrocution if the hair dryer comes in contact with water.

**INCIDENTS/INJURIES:** No incidents or injuries have been reported.

*April 27, 1999 Release # 99-101*

## **Candles Recalled**

WASHINGTON, D.C. - In cooperation with the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC), Candles International Inc., of Lynchburg, Va., is voluntarily recalling about 20,500 candles. The candles can burn with a high flame, presenting a potential fire hazard to consumers.

Candles International Inc. has received eight reports of these candles burning with a high flame, resulting in minor property damage. No injuries have been reported.

The recalled candles come in galvanized steel, brass, and copper 13 or 23 ounce containers. A label on the bottom of the candle reads in part, "Old Virginia Candle Co...hand-crafted in the USA." Fragrances include cinnamon, french

vanilla, lavender, mulberry, peach, strawberry, hollyberry, pine, bayberry, old time vanilla, evergreen, blue-

berry, gardens, sugar cookie, gingerbread and rum cake.

Gift and card stores

nationwide sold the candles from July 1996 through April 1998 for between \$14 and \$18.



*March 19, 1999 Release # 99-082*

## **CPSC, Kidde Safety Announce Recall of Carbon Monoxide Alarms**

Kidde Safety, of Mebane, N.C., is voluntarily recalling about 1 million carbon monoxide alarms, including 650,000 Nighthawks and 350,000 Lifesavers. The Lifesaver models could alarm late or not alarm at all, and the Nighthawk models could alarm late. These alarms are used to detect carbon monoxide (CO), a colorless, odorless gas, leaking from fuel burning appliances. When they don't work, consumers can be unknowingly exposed to hazardous levels of CO, and suffer injury or death.

Kidde Safety and CPSC are not aware of any injuries involving these products. This recall is being conducted to prevent the possibility of injury.

The Nighthawk models included in this recall are all models manufactured between November 8, 1998, and March 9, 1999. The manufacturing date is on the back of the unit as year, month, day. "NIGHTHAWK" and "Carbon Monoxide Alarm" are written on the front of the unit. If "Carbon Monoxide Detector" is written on the front, the unit is operating properly and is not part of the recall.

The Lifesaver models included in this recall are models 9CO-1 and 9CO-1C manufactured between June 1, 1997, and

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# NEWS FROM CPSC

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January 31, 1998. The manufacturing date is on the back of the unit as the first six numbers in the serial number, located above the UPC code. The manufacturing date is written as day, month, year. "LIFESAVER" and "Carbon Monoxide Detector" are written on the front of the unit. Kidde Safety will help consumers identify whether their units are involved in this recall.

Consumers can participate in the recall in one of two direct ways. Visit the Kidde Safety recall web site at [www.nhawk.com](http://www.nhawk.com) and follow the instructions, or call Kidde Safety toll-free at (888) 543-3346 between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m. EST Monday through Sunday to identify whether their alarms are involved in this recall. If so, consumers will be sent a postage-paid envelope to return the alarm. Lifesaver models will be repaired, and Nighthawk models will be inspected, tested, and repaired if needed.

Kidde Safety has informed CPSC that consumers will receive alarms back within 30 days. All returned alarms will be recertified to UL-2034.

Hardware and mass merchandise stores nationwide sold these alarms beginning in 1998 for about \$20 to \$50. Consumers should not return the alarms to stores.

The initial symptoms of CO poisoning are similar to flu, and include headache, fatigue, shortness of breath, nausea and dizziness. Exposure to high levels of CO can cause death. CO poisoning associated with using fuel-burning appliances kills more than 200 people each year and sends about 10,000 to hospital emergency rooms for treatment.



March 24, 1999 Release # 99-084

## Children's Riding Vehicles

Peg Perego USA Inc., of Fort Wayne, Ind., is recalling about 274,000 battery-powered children's riding vehicles for repair. Pedals can stick and electrical components can overheat, presenting fire and injury hazards to children.

CPSC and Peg Perego have received about 320 reports of electrical components overheating or pedals sticking. Thirty fires have been reported, resulting in one child suffering second-degree burns to his hand and at least \$55,000 in property damage. One child suffered a concussion and six children received bruises when accelerator pedals stuck and the vehicles hit trees, fences, walls or parked automobiles.

The Peg Perego vehicles being recalled run on 12 volts, powered by two 6-volt batteries, and were manufactured before December 1997. The vehicles are made of plastic and have been sold under the following model names: Corral 270, Diablo, Dragon, Gaucho, Gaucho Grande, Gaucho High Torque, Gaucho Sport, Magica, Magnum, Ranger GT, Thunderbolt, Thundercat, and Tornado. The model name and Peg Perego appear on each vehicle. The company will help consumers identify if their model is part of the recall. Peg Perego vehicles are intended for children 3 to 8 years old, and the

vehicles' speed ranges from 2.5 to 5 mph, depending on the model.

Toy stores and retail catalogs sold the vehicles nationwide from 1990 through 1997 for about \$100 to \$550.

The 12-volt, two battery Peg Perego vehicles manufactured since 1998 and the 6-volt, one battery vehicles are not included in this recall.

April 22, 1999 Release # 99-100

## Electric Meter Boxes, Trouble Lights, Surge Protectors

**PRODUCT:** Combination Service Entrance Devices (CSEDs) - Square D Co., of Palatine, Ill., is recalling about 12,200 CSEDs, which are metal boxes mounted on the outside of homes and contain the electric meter and the main electrical breaker panel. These CSEDs are gray, and have catalog numbers C125RB, C200RB, C2M200RB, C4L200RB (Series M01), CQRB100CP (Series M01, E1, and E01) and CQRB200RB (Series M01, E3, and E03). "Square D" and the catalog number can be found on the wiring diagram located on the inside of the left-hand hinge cover. The CQRB100CP measures 12.8 inches high by 13.6 inches wide by 4.6 inches deep, and the other models measure 18.3 inches high by 19.5 inches wide by 4.6 inches deep. These products were sold nationwide primarily to electrical contractors through distributors. A small percentage were sold to contractors and possibly consumers through home improvement stores. They were sold from October 1997 through July 1998 for between \$130 and \$300.

**PROBLEM:** When these CSEDs are installed and electrical power supplied, electrical arcing can occur, posing a risk of shock, electrocution and electric burn.

**INJURIES/INCIDENTS:** CPSC and Square D are aware of one report of a unit arcing during installation. No injuries have been reported.

**WHAT TO DO:** If you have one of these devices that has not been installed, do not attempt to install or connect power to the device. If your CSED is installed and operating properly, it does not require replacement. The electrical arcing would be apparent on a defective CSED with sparks or fire emanating from the box. For a free replacement CSED, call Square D toll-free at (800) 666-7557 Monday through Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. EST.



**PRODUCT:** Trouble Lights: Primerica Enterprise, of Deer Park N.Y., is voluntarily recalling about 1,500 trouble lights. The lights are made up of a metal back and metal caged front, and have a hook. The light's socket and handle are covered with blue plastic, which is attached to a blue electrical cord. There is a receptacle on the light's handle below the black power switch. The lights are available in cord lengths of 15, 25 and 50 feet. The lights were packaged in cardboard display sleeves labeled in part, "HEAVY DUTY TROUBLE LIGHT . . . Made in China." Primerica Enterprise is not written on the product or packaging. Hardware and tool stores in the eastern U.S. sold the lights from December 1997 through January 1999 for about \$8 to \$12, depending upon the length.

**PROBLEM:** The lights have undersized wires, and other internal defects presenting fire, shock and electrocution hazards.

**INCIDENTS/INJURIES:** None reported.

**WHAT TO DO:** Consumers should stop using the recalled lights immediately, and return them to the store where purchased for a full refund. For additional information, consumers should contact the company at (888) 387-7193 between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. EDT Monday through Friday.

**PRODUCT:** Power Strip Surge Protectors: Kingsland Tools Inc., of Bell, Calif., is voluntarily recalling about 3,900 power strip surge protectors. The power strip is gray or beige metal with a black cord and 6 black outlets and a red power switch.

"FEIKANG...LINAN...

CHANG...RVV...300/500V" is printed on the cord. It was packaged in a blue box, labeled in part, "GENERAL POWER 6 OUTLET POWER STRIP...MADE IN CHINA." Discount and hardware stores in California, Florida and Illinois sold the power strips from April 1998 through Febru-

ary 1999 for about \$2.50.

**PROBLEM:** The power strips have cracked, corroded and loose wires, presenting fire, shock and electrocution hazards.

**INCIDENTS/INJURIES:** None reported.

**WHAT TO DO:** Consumers should stop using the recalled power strips immediately, and return them to the store where purchased for a refund. For additional information, consumers should contact the company collect at (323) 526-1178 between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. PST Monday through Friday.

*March 25, 1999 Release # 99-087*

### **Voltage Testers**

Woods Industries Inc., of Carmel, Ind., is recalling about 14,000 voltage testers. These testers could short circuit, causing possible shock, electrocution or burns.

Woods Industries is aware of five reports of the tester short circuiting, including one serious injury to an electrician working with high voltage. He reportedly suffered second and third degree burns to his chest, hands, neck and face.

These voltage testers are rated for 120 to 600 volts. "Woods®" and "Taiwan" are molded into the tester's case. The body of the test meter is black, and measures about 6.25 inches long by 2.4 inches wide and about 1.2 inches thick. The wire leads are red and black. The testers have model number 1307, which could be found on the packaging and in the user's manual.

Home centers and hardware stores nationwide sold these voltage testers between January 1985 and December 1988 for \$10 to \$15.

Consumers with these recalled voltage testers should stop using them immediately, and return them to Woods Industries for a \$20 refund and the price of postage. For information on returning recalled voltage testers, consumers should call Woods Industries toll-free at (877) 221-4627 between 8

a.m. and 5 p.m. EST Monday through Friday.

These testers were manufactured by Test-Rite International Co., Ltd., of Bensenville, Ill., and distributed by a company Woods Industries later acquired. Woods Industries is taking the steps necessary to remove this product from circulation.

*April 8, 1999 Release # 99-092*

### **Recall of Heat Detectors**

Interstate Engineering, of Dallas, Texas, is voluntarily recalling about 40,000 heat detectors. These heat detectors can fail to alarm or alarm for a shorter period of time than intended when fire is present.

Interstate Engineering and CPSC are aware of one incident when a heat detector failed to operate properly during a retail demonstration. Subsequent testing by Interstate Engineering produced approximately 38 additional failures. CPSC is not aware of any failures during use by consumers, and no injuries have been reported.

The heat detectors are round, have an off-white aluminum cover, are roughly 7 inches in diameter and 3 inches high, and have a round, brass-colored metal disk at the center of the cover. They are mechanical, and do not use batteries or electricity. The heat detectors were sold under the following private label brand names and models, which were printed on labels on the back of the detectors:

- MasterGuard model MG-50/70;
- Responsive model TRI70;
- Rescue II model R-50FT

The recalled heat detectors have the following serial numbers on the label that is beneath the removable mounting bracket on the back of each unit: 980400001 through 981108112.

These heat detectors were sold nationwide primarily through in-home demonstrations and sales parties from May 1998 through December 1998 for about \$225 or higher. Prices were

*Continued on page 10*

# NEWS FROM CPSC

*Continued from page 9*

determined by Interstate Engineering's private label resellers.

Consumers should stop using these heat detectors immediately and call Interstate for a free replacement at (888) 516-0019 between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday EDT.

Heat detectors are intended to supplement smoke detectors to warn of fire, but CPSC reminds consumers they should not rely on heat detectors as substitutes for smoke detectors.

*April 28, 1999 Release # 99-103*

## **CPSC, Toro Co. Remind Consumers of Lawn-Boy Power Mower Recall**

With warm weather returning to much of the U.S., it is also the beginning of the lawn mowing season. The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC), and Toro Co., of Bloomington, Minn., is reminding consumers of the cooperative recall of approximately 78,000 Lawn-Boy power mowers, announced in January. Interference with the mower's mulching fan can cause the mower blade to crack and break off. Broken pieces of the blade can be propelled from underneath the mower, possibly injuring the operator or a bystander.

Toro has received one report of a consumer who was struck on the ankle by a piece of a broken mower blade while mowing, resulting in a bruised tendon.

The recalled Lawn-Boy Silver Series, Four Cycle, walk-behind, 21-inch power mowers have the following model and serial numbers, which are printed on a decal on the right rear of the mower:

### Model and Serial Number Ranges

102007900001-7999999

102027900001-7999999

102127900001-7999999

102367900001-7999999

102498900001-8999999

103027900001-7999999

103077900001-7999999

103137900001-8999999

103217900001-8999999

Lawn-Boy Dealers and mass merchant retail outlets, including Sears, Lowe's and the Home Depot, sold these mowers from January 1997 through November 1998 for between

\$280 and \$400.

*April 7, 1999 Release # 99-090*

## **Oil-Filled Electric Heaters**

Lakewood Engineering & Manufacturing Co., of Chicago, Ill., is recalling about 23,000 low-profile, oil-filled electric heaters. Over time, the electric heating element in the heater could come into contact with the metal frame. This poses an electrical shock and electrocution hazard to consumers.

Lakewood is not aware of any reports of electrical shock or injuries involving these heaters. Lakewood discovered this hazard from an examination of returned heaters and as a result of testing.

Consumers can identify these heaters by looking for model number "7400" metal stamped with the Underwriters Laboratories certification on the rear side of the heater. Consumers should unplug the heaters before examining them. These heaters are white, about 10 inches high and 36 inches long, and "Lakewood" is written above the power control.

Home supply stores, such as Service Merchandise, and catalogs sold these heaters from August 1998 through March 1999 for approximately \$50.



*April 13, 1999 Release # 99-095*

## **Kikkerland Designs Inc. Announce Recall of Novelty Lighters**

Kikkerland Designs Inc., of New York, N.Y., is recalling about 20,000 novelty lighters. The lighters do not have any child-resistant mechanisms, as required by the Consumer Product Safety Act. Young children could ignite the lighters, presenting a fire hazard.

CPSC and Kikkerland Designs Inc. are not aware of any injuries involving these lighters. This recall is being conducted to prevent the possibility of injuries.

The novelty lighters being recalled resemble lamps and flying saucers. The flying saucer lighter, made of silver metal and orange plastic, measures about 3.25 inches in diameter and 1.75 inches high. "UFO" is imprinted in the ignition switch and flashing lights illuminate once



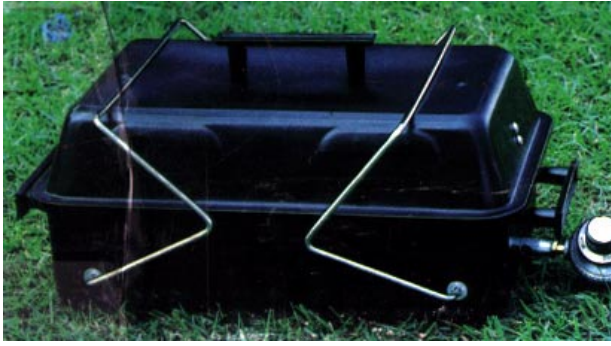
the switch is activated. The lamp lighter, with a blue shade, yellow pole and black base, is made of metal and measures about 6.75 inches high. It has no labeling and uses a pull chain as the ignition switch. The flame comes out of the top of the lamp shade.

Small retail stores and souvenir shops nationwide sold these lighters from March 1997 through February 1999 for about \$10.

*March 4, 1999 Release # 99-072*

## **Recall of Mickey's Waffle Irons**

The Walt Disney Co., of Burbank,



Calif., is voluntarily recalling more than 1,300 electric waffle irons. The waffle irons are improperly wired, presenting fire, shock and electrocution hazards to consumers.

Disney has received one report of a waffle iron catching on fire at the wall socket. No injuries or property damage was reported.

The waffle irons were manufactured by Vitantonio Products. The wiring was installed improperly during the manufacturing process. Vitantonio is a former licensee of Disney Consumer Products and is no longer in business. However, out of concern for consumer safety, Disney immediately agreed to conduct the recall itself and provide consumers with an incentive to return the waffle irons. Disney is offering consumers who participate in this recall a \$70 gift voucher good for use in The Disney Catalog.

The waffle iron is chrome and black. It is made in a "clam-shell" design, and when the top lid is opened, a Mickey Mouse face is revealed on the cooking surfaces, which measure 7 inches in diameter. "Vitantonio Premier Mickey's Waffler The Walt Disney Co." is on a metallic label on the handle. Only waffle irons with three-prong plugs bearing model number 1950 and a serial number in one of the following ranges are being recalled: 17001000 to 17002661 or 46006022 to 46006524. The model and serial number are on a label affixed to the bottom of the waffle iron, along with "Vitantonio ... Made in U.S.A. ... UL 43G5 Listed".

Walt Disney World Resorts and specialty kitchen and department stores nationwide sold the waffle irons from Octo-

ber 1996 through January 1997 for about \$60.

Vitantonio made a number of other styles of Mickey waffle irons for Disney. None of these products are involved in this recall.

*May 11, 1999 Release # 99-109*

### **CPSC, Kmart Announce Recall of Tru-Burn Portable LP Gas Grills**

Kmart Corporation, of Troy, Mich., is recalling about 40,000 Tru-Burn Portable LP Gas Grills. The burner manifold connection can separate during use, resulting in a flame outside the grill which could burn consumers and ignite nearby combustibles.

CPSC is aware of one reported fire outside of a consumer's grill due to the manifold connection separating during use. No injuries were reported.

The Tru-Burn Portable LP Gas Grill has a black porcelain paint finish with two chrome-plated wire, steel legs. When assembled, the gas grill is about 18- inches long and 12-inches high. There are three rectangular-shaped handles, one attached to each end of the grill's body and one attached to the lid. The box in which the grill was packaged is labeled with UPC Code 024838170001 and Kmart Code 0-118731-116. Writing on the box includes, "TRU-BURN."

Kmart sold these portable grills nationwide through its Kmart stores from February 1996 through August 1998 for about \$22.

The "BBQ-PRO" model portable gas grills currently being sold by Kmart are not included in this recall.

*April 29, 1999 Release # 99-104*

### **CPSC, Bell Sports Inc. Announce Recall of Bicycle Helmets**

In cooperation with the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC), Bell Sports Inc., of San Jose, Calif., is voluntarily recalling about 5,800 bicycle helmets used for BMX and downhill mountain biking and racing. A defect with the helmets' chin strap rivets can result in the helmet coming off the rider's head in the event of a fall or crash. If the helmet comes off, serious head injury could result.

Bell Sports is aware of one incident where the chin strap assembly became detached from a helmet during a crash. No injury was reported.

These bike helmets are red, green, black, white and "Tear Away," which is multicolored. They were sold under the model names Rhythm, Bellistic and Qualifier, which is written on their packaging. The recalled helmets have date stickers inside reading October 1998 through March 1999. "BELL" is written on the sides of these helmets and on the visors.

Independent bicycle dealers nationwide sold these helmets from October 1999 through April 1999 for between \$90 and \$125.



Consumers should stop using these helmets immediately, until they are repaired or replaced. For more information, consumers should call Bell Sports at (800) 456-BELL between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. CDT Monday through Friday. For a free replacement helmet, including shipping costs, consumers should mail their helmets to Bell Sports Inc., Route 136 East, Rantoul, IL 61866, ATTN: BMX Department. Consumers also can contact Bell Sports through their website at [www.bellsports.com](http://www.bellsports.com). ♦

## Governor Honors Papa Gino's Inc. for Support of Fire Safety

On March 11, 1999, Governor Paul Cellucci, Public Safety Secretary Jane Perlov, the Fire Chiefs' of Massachusetts, the Massachusetts Fire Service Commission and State Fire Marshal Stephen D. Coan acknowledged the good corporate citizenship of Papa Gino's Inc. for its support of fire safety education.

Governor Cellucci presented a citation to Thomas J. Galligan, III, president of Papa Gino's for their model corporate citizenship. Chelmsford Fire Chief John E. Parow, President of the Fire Chiefs' Association of Massachusetts also presented Papa Gino's with a citation and thanked them on behalf of all the fire chiefs in the state. For the past four years, Papa Gino's has supported open houses at fire stations with pizza and publicity, and promoted fire safety in their stores

during October.

In attendance to offer their congratulations, were Public Safety Undersecretary Richard J. Grelotti, State Fire Marshal Stephen D. Coan and Deputy State Fire Marshal Thomas P.

Leonard, Massachusetts Fire Services Commission members Chief Ronald E. Cormier, Chairman, Chief Thomas E. Garrity, Chief Marcel Dumont, and Mr. John Golembeski, members of Papa Gino's management team, representatives of Triple Dot Communications who worked on this project for the company, and Fire Chiefs' Association of Massachusetts



*Governor Paul Cellucci (c) with Thomas J. Galligan, III (l) Papa Gino's CEO, and Chief Jack Parow, (r) President of FCAM*

members Chief John Parow, Chief David Madden, Ret. Chief Joseph Daniele, Chief Robert A. DiPoli, Chief Roger Belhumeur, Chief Victor Zambruski, Chief David LaFond and Chief George Duhamel. ♦

## DFS Summer Fire Safety Camp

**July 20-23, 1999**

The second DFS Summer Fire Safety Camp will be held July 20-22, 1999 at the Stow campus of the Department of Fire Services. On Friday, July 23, the camp will move to West Springfield to the "Big E" fairgrounds. Campers aged 10-14 will learn about fire safety and fire service careers as they view positive adult role models, and develop friendships in a unique environment.

Campers will learn about the chemistry of fire through a science experiment, learn about the questions fire investigators ask to solve cases, see a demonstration on how accelerant detection dogs assist arson investigators, learn to tie knots that firefighters use every day, watch staff volunteers rappel off the training tower, learn about smoke detectors and home escape planning in the Fire Safety House. They will see a



### Summer Fire Safety Camp

demonstration on the danger of fireworks and they will participate in a scavenger hunt where they will learn more about fire safety and they will be in a mini-muster where they will exercise various firefighter skills.

Summer Fire Safety Camp is not just about fire safety. At the end of the camp day the campers leave the Department of Fire Services with many valuable life lessons. We are confident that our positive role models encourage interest in the issue of public

safety as well as the importance of teamwork and mutual respect.

### Dates to Remember

- May 3, 1999 Deadline for fire chiefs to decide to participate
- May 19, 1999 Deadline for DFS to determine the bus stops, bus routes and assign days to attend.
- June 1, 1999 Deadline for volunteers to sign-up and submit CORI release forms for the required background check.
- June 25, 1999 Deadline for parents to give a doctor's note and completed registration form to the fire chief.
- July 1, 1999 Deadline for fire chiefs to submit Registration Forms with doctor's notes attached to the DFS.♦



## Boating safety for all seasons: Advice from the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA)

Whether you're an experienced boater or a novice on the water, launch into every power boat adventure safely by following this advice from the nonprofit National Fire Protection Association (NFPA):

**Inspect your power sources:** A powered boat's machinery and related accessories are subject to extreme vibration, and can wear down over time. When this happens, electrical wiring and fuel connections can become sources of fire. Have a qualified technician periodically inspect all power sources for damage or fatigue, and related connections for cracks, corrosion, or weathering. Any faulty equipment, frayed wiring, or cracked or loosened connections should be repaired or replaced before launching your boat.

**Ventilate bilges properly:** Because air does not circulate naturally in bilges, vapors from any potential fuel or oil leaks could accumulate to dangerous concentrations and become a fire hazard. Properly ventilate bilges, as well as other low-lying pockets, storage compartments, and accommodation spaces, to allow vapors to escape to the outside.

**Prevent carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning:** Carbon monoxide (CO) is emitted from any boat's exhaust. When your boat is moored or anchored alongside others', be aware of the effect your exhaust may have on those vessels and vice versa. The trim of the boat, as well as side curtains, can contribute to increased concentrations of CO by altering the air flow. Fuel burning appliances located in accommodation spaces need to be properly ventilated and maintained.

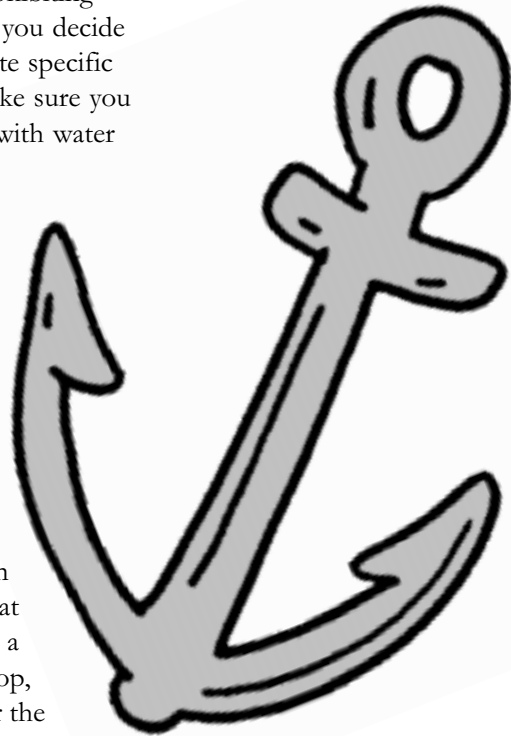
**Take precautions:** Smoking is a fire risk at any time on a boat, but especially in cargo or storage spaces. In addition, careless disposal of smoking materials, such as cigarettes or cigars, is

a fire culprit. Consider prohibiting smoking on your boat. If you decide to allow smoking, designate specific areas for smokers and make sure you douse smoking materials with water before disposing of them. Never refuel your boat while smoking.

### **Keep your galley clean:**

A build-up of grease or other material on your stovetop, and combustible items placed too close to burners, can be a fire risk. Keep your galley clean, and make sure anything that can burn is kept well away from heat sources. If you experience a grease fire on your stovetop, slide a tight-fitting lid over the pan, turn off the burner, and let the pan cool completely.

**Protect yourself, and your passengers:** Smoke alarms can be your first warning that there is a fire on your boat. Install smoke alarms in the galley area as well as accommodation spaces. Also, make sure your boat is equipped with portable fire extinguishers. Refer to NFPA 302, Fire Protection Standard for Pleasure and Commercial



Motor Craft, for information on the appropriate placement of extinguishers on your boat. Also, make sure everyone has a seat on your boat and wears a U.S. or Canadian Coast Guard-approved personal flotation device (PFD) at all times. ♦

### **Marine Fueling Facilities May 15 Was Deadline for 1999 Permits**

A mailing was recently sent to all marine fueling facilities we had previously identified from our database. We have found that many fixed marine facilities, mobile facilities, and barge/vessels have not applied for their 1999 Marine Fueling Permits as required in accordance with 527 CMR 15.00.

May 15, 1999 was the deadline for all marine fueling facilities to submit their paperwork to the Department

of Fire Services, Office of the State Fire Marshal. Local fire departments should ensure that the marine fueling facilities in their jurisdictions have met this deadline.

Compliance officers in the Office of the State Fire Marshal are ready to work with facility owners and fire prevention officers to ensure continued compliance. If you need any assistance please call (978) 567-3300. ♦

# Plain Speaking on Y2K for the Fire Services

Rebecca Dono Healy

*We should all be concerned about automated and intelligent systems not designed to account for the date change of the year 2000. But there is a great deal of misinformation on this topic being circulated."*

*- US Fire Administrator Carrye B. Brown*

The Internet is rife with rumors alleging that fire trucks will not be able to start on the morning of January 1, 2000. Yet there was very little authoritative information available to confirm or refute the rumors. To find out the truth about the impact of the year 2000 on the fire service, the Department of Fire Services investigated manufacturers of fire apparatus, fire alarm and suppression systems, and elevator controls that are commonly used in Massachusetts. Our investigation shows that the year 2000 rollover will not affect the fire service products investigated.

These positive findings should not lull fire departments into complacency. Each fire department is ultimately responsible for its own equipment. What follows is a description of the steps that DFS took to investigate manufacturers of commonly used equipment. DFS strongly urges each department to conduct a similar survey of its own critical equipment.

Our investigation started with the regulations that govern fire apparatus. The National Fire Prevention Code mandates that automatic engine shutdown systems shall not be permitted unless they are an integral part of the standard engine management system which cannot be disabled. Then, we contacted the major engine manufacturers for fire apparatus for information and asked them to send or fax us a statement of their Y2K readiness. Cummings, Detroit Diesel and Caterpillar all sent us statements that their engines will not be affected by the rollover. We also received statements from chassis manufacturers E-One and KME saying that their

apparatus will not be affected by the year 2000. The General Services Administration recently investigated and disproved a report that originated with an emergency services unit at a federal facility in New Mexico that mistakenly claimed that emergency vehicle ignition systems would not work on January 1, 2000.

After looking at fire apparatus, we focused on fire alarm and suppression systems. The old-fashioned municipal fireboxes still seen on street corners may use technology over a century old, but they have the advantage of being Y2K compliant. Traditional 'pull' or heat-activated systems use mechanical triggers that are not sensitive to the date. Newer electronic systems may have embedded chips for date stamping and event logging. We contacted the major manufacturers of fire suppression systems and the following companies: Gamewell, Simplex, Monaco Enterprises and Digitize all stated that the effectiveness of their products will be not be affected by the year 2000 rollover. Mark Chubb, Fire

Code Coordinator, Southeastern Association of Fire Chiefs/Southern Building Code Congress International concludes that a system with embedded chips "should be able to perform its basic function of generating an alarm to evacuate the building." Further the Underwriter's Laboratories Service Agreement obligates manufacturers to be compliant in date handling for all new systems.

There is a possible point of failure in alarm systems: the transport method. Systems that use a dedicated telephone line to send signals will only work if the phone provider is running on January 1, 2000. This only serves to emphasize that the fire service depends on other systems. Power, water supply, telephone, communications, including dispatch, E-911, pagers and radios are all essential services that must be running on January 1, 2000. It is imperative that fire departments ensure that each mission critical service provider will meet its obligations.

In addition to fire apparatus and fire suppression systems, Massachusetts





firefighters depend upon elevators to have working firefighter key switches. Massachusetts regulations require elevators to have elevator recall and mandate that “no system shall be incorporated or designed to override the firefighters key switch...” Otis and Schindler, the two largest major elevator manufacturers, both declare that the date roll-over will not affect elevator operations. According to Janet Moore, from Millar Elevator Service Co., “providing that all Elevator Fire Fighter’s Service features are functioning according to code mandates, entering into Year 2000 should have no affect on the ability of elevators to respond to the activation of smoke detectors connected to the elevator controller recall system.”

Finally, the Department of Fire Services is working to ensure that its internal processes are year 2000 compliant. Our telephone and voice-mail systems are being upgraded and our network backbone and servers are compliant. All but one of our mission critical databases are in production or advanced beta testing. The development of the remaining system was delayed waiting for standards from the federal government, but it is expected to be complete by the end of April. The Department of Fire Services is ready to serve our clients, Massachusetts’ fire departments, in the year 2000. ♦

## **USEFUL Y2K WEB SITES FOR FIRE PROFESSIONALS**

### **Government**

US Fire Administration	<a href="http://www.usfa.fema.gov">www.usfa.fema.gov</a>
Federal Emergency Management Agency	<a href="http://www.fema.gov">www.fema.gov</a>

### **Professional**

National Assoc. of State Fire Marshals	<a href="http://www.firemarshals.org">www.firemarshals.org</a>
International Assoc. of Fire Chiefs	<a href="http://www.iafc.org">www.iafc.org</a>

### **Alarm Systems**

Simplex	<a href="http://www.simplexnet.com">www.simplexnet.com</a>
Gamewell	<a href="http://www.gamewell.com">www.gamewell.com</a>
Monaco	<a href="http://www.monaco.com">www.monaco.com</a>
Digitize	<a href="http://www.digitize-inc.com">www.digitize-inc.com</a>
AAFA	<a href="http://www.aafa.org">www.aafa.org</a>

### **Elevator Manufacturers**

Schindler	<a href="http://www.us.schindler.com">www.us.schindler.com</a>
Otis	<a href="http://www.otis.com">www.otis.com</a>
Millar	<a href="http://www.millar.com">www.millar.com</a>

### **Apparatus Manufacturers**

E-One	<a href="http://www.emergencyone.com">www.emergencyone.com</a>
KME	<a href="http://www.kovatch.com">www.kovatch.com</a>
Pierce	<a href="http://www.piercemfg.com">www.piercemfg.com</a>
NFPA	<a href="http://www.nfpa.org">www.nfpa.org</a>

### **Engine Manufacturers**

Caterpillar	<a href="http://www.caterpillar.com">www.caterpillar.com</a>
Detroit Diesel	<a href="http://www.detroitdiesel.com">www.detroitdiesel.com</a>
Cummings	<a href="http://www.cummins.com">www.cummins.com</a>
Allison	<a href="http://www.allison.com">www.allison.com</a>

## **Danger of Fireworks Assemblies**

Sgt. Paul Damery of the Hazardous Devices Unit, is again working with S.A.F.E. Educators to conduct school assemblies for middle schoolers on the dangers of fireworks. If you are interested in scheduling an assembly, contact him at (978) 567-3365 and leave your name, fire department, telephone number and 2-3 possible dates. There is a maximum number of children who can participate at once which is roughly two homerooms worth. ♦

## **DiFava Named New Head of State Police**

On April 14, 1999, John DiFava was named as Superintendent and Colonel of the Massachusetts State Police by Governor Cellucci. DiFava has served in the State Police since 1974 and was promoted from commander of Field Services, the State Police’s largest division, where he oversaw more than 1,500 public safety personnel. From 1996 to February of 1998, DiFava served as commander of Troop H, the largest and most urban troop, responsible



for the greater Boston area. As a captain, he was the executive officer in charge of the Tactical Operations Section. DiFava, 47, holds a B.A. in Sociology from Long Island University and a master’s degree in education from Boston University. ♦

# Forty More Are Alive This Year

By *Vina Drennan*

Captain John J. Drennan died fighting fire in the city he loved with firefighters he loved. For forty days his struggle to live was followed by the people of New York City who showed their respect for Captain Drennan and for all firefighters who continue to put their lives on the line. Heroes, every one of them.

When the Fire Department of New York City (FDNY) chose to honor the commitment of John Drennan with a medal, I was appreciative of the honor. "Could we use the medal to honor a member who shows extraordinary commitment to reducing fire through prevention and safety education?" I naively asked. You can imagine the reaction and so the Captain John J. Drennan Medal is imprinted with the solid powerful word VALOR, and I sincerely am honored to present it to a firefighter who risked much to be deserving of this medal. Yet as I stand on the podium at the FDNY Medal Ceremony and look into the faces of the firefighter's family and see the pride in their eyes. I wonder if they even realize how close they come to losing their loved one every time a firefighter responds to the alarm.

Yes, it takes courage to fight fires, a courage I will never know, courage to face the flames, the heat, the darkness, the unknown. However, I am sorry I did not hold my own in those early days following his death because it takes great courage to fight fires with common sense too, and there are no medals for common sense in New York City. There are probably no medals for common sense in your department either.

You readers of this column know what I mean. You are continually overcoming the obstacles of the culture that sees suppression as the only way to fight fire. Statistics verify that in cities that commit a mere three percent of their fire budgets to fire safety, lives



*Vina Drennan, Speaking at the Massachusetts Public Fire and Life Safety Education Conference, 1996*

and property are saved. It's hard to tally the lives saved in a community where the commitment to install smoke detectors is a priority. We do not know the name of a child that is spared the scars of fire because one of you went into a school to teach the importance of developing an exit plan for their family. We do not know which elderly person you saved when you visited the senior citizen center in your neighborhood and gave a cooking safety demonstration. We do not know the names, but we do know the fatalities are decreasing and it is not because of bigger and shinier apparatus. Fatalities are going down because of the courage of firefighters who stand up to the macho mentality that has driven our departments for too long. Fatalities are going down because there are firefighters throughout our country who see a better way, members who truly want to prevent suffering and are tired of glorifying the failures of prevention. Many of you have witnessed too much in your careers, and you want it to stop.

Within FDNY there are also people that share the commitment to prevent fire. They quietly do their work; often without funding, without the respect which we honor the others. The results

of their efforts are showing up. In 1995, more New Yorkers died as a result of fire than all the victims that perished in the bombing at Oklahoma City.

We lost 173 of our people that year, but fortunately the trend has reversed as the department begins to focus attention on education and community outreach. At midyear 1998 we had 48 fatalities, way lower than the 96 deaths we counted as of June 30, 1996. Forty more people are alive this year and something has changed in New York City. Sure, we can give credit to the bunker gear firefighters now wear that allow them to save more lives, and we can give credit to the use of defibrillators, which save more lives too. However, we must also give credit to the fire safety educators and the programs that are effectively preventing fire throughout the City.

I wish we could present the Captain John J. Drennan Medal to that Fire Marshal, who having spent much of his career extinguishing fire, now devotes his efforts to arson investigation and whose constant prayer is to have a month in which not a single life is lost. I wish we could present the Captain John J. Drennan Medal to the lieutenant who spends his day finding the materials he needs to take the fire awareness message to our people. I wish we could present the Captain John J. Drennan Medal to the firefighters that distributed 23,000 batteries in a recent smoke detector program.

To whom would you give the Captain John J. Drennan Medal in your department? He or she is there somewhere, probably frustrated, maybe being teased or ignored; used to being treated as an annoyance. He's there. I wish I could come hang the Captain John J. Drennan Medal around his neck. "Don't Quit," I

*Continued on page 17*

## Forty More

*Continued from page 16*

would say. "Please keep trying and don't lose your courage. Together we will make a difference."

Vina Drennan is a strong advocate for fire and life safety education and travels extensively across North America persuading people to teach responsibility with fire. She has been

the keynote speaker at two annual Massachusetts Public Fire and Safety Education Conferences. Her husband, New York City Fire Captain John Drennan, died from the extensive injuries he sustained in a fire on March 28, 1994, in Greenwich Village. She serves with the Fallen Firefighter Foundation, developing strategies that support families following the death of a firefighter. Prior to being a fire safety

spokesperson, Mrs. Drennan was a third grade teacher in New York City. She is a member of the FDNY Fire Safety Education Fund and mayoral appointee to the Commission on the status of Women in NYC. ♦

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## PUBLIC EDUCATION RESOURCES

### Upcoming Trainings and Seminars

#### Practical Aspects of Search for the Missing Person

June 21-22, 1999  
0900-1600 hours  
Mass. Firefighting Academy, Stow

#### Basic Water Rescue

Classroom: June 23, 1999  
0900-1600  
Mass. Firefighting Academy, Stow  
Practical: June 24, 1999  
0900-1600  
Mass. State Police Barracks,  
Framingham

#### Hotel/Motel Fire Safety

June 24, 1999  
Contact: Industrial Seminars at  
(978) 567-3200 or  
[www.state.ma.us/mfa/indust.htm](http://www.state.ma.us/mfa/indust.htm) ♦

### Smoke Screeners

This is an educational program to take the glamour out of smoking in the movies that helps students aged 11-14 to critically evaluate how tobacco is portrayed in the media. Parents and teachers cannot always monitor what young people are seeing, but we can teach media literacy. It is available free to anyone who is working in the schools. It may be obtained by calling toll-free 1-888-8NO-DRAG (866-3724). Each kit contains a 14 minute video, a moderator's guide, and posters. ♦

### Remembering When: A New Fire and Fall Prevention Program for Older Adults

Do you remember the name of Charles Lindbergh's plane or who sang "Minnie the Moocher"? Do you know what athlete was nicknamed "The Ebony Express" or the name of the town where the mighty Casey struck out? Chances are that the older adults in your community do, and a new NFPA program will soon be turning those memories into life-saving lessons. Remembering When, developed by the NFPA Center for High-Risk Outreach and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, contains everything you will need to conduct a comprehensive fire and fall prevention program for older adults in your community. It focuses on more than a dozen "key mes-

sages" for use in group presentations or one-on-one discussions.

#### **NOTE: Limited Time Offer!**

The NFPA will release Remembering When in June and will distribute 5,000 copies of the program at no charge. To receive a free copy of the program, please complete the official application or call (617) 984-7286 to have an application mailed or faxed to you. If your organization would like to purchase Remembering When, the price will be \$50 a copy; or \$250 for a carton of 10 copies. For more information or an application form, contact Sharon Gamache, Executive Director of NFPA's Center for High-Risk Outreach. ♦



# Massachusetts Urban Search and Rescue Task Force Conducts Exercise

The Massachusetts Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) Task Force conducted a team deployment exercise and program orientation at the Department of Fire Services in Stow on April 14, 1999. The USAR team responds to major natural disasters such as earthquakes, hurricanes and man-made ones such as the Oklahoma City bombing.

## **Specialized Tools and Techniques in Action**

The team demonstrated the specialized tools and techniques they have for locating live victims trapped in collapsed concrete buildings and structures such as highways, and cutting through heavy debris in just the right spot for rescue. The demonstration included specially trained urban search dogs, a technical search exercise using cameras and acoustic equipment for locating victims in collapsed buildings, concrete breaching without causing further collapse, shoring of a damaged building and a high frequency radio exercise with the Virginia Beach Urban Search and Rescue Team.

State Fire Marshal Stephen D. Coan said, "Painful lessons learned from earthquakes in San Francisco and



*USAR Demo in drillyard at Mass. Firefighting Academy*

bombings in Oklahoma, have led to the development of sophisticated tools and rescue techniques. We are fortunate to have a trained USAR team based here in New England."

## **Managing "Crush Syndrome"**

Medical team members also demonstrated how they keep trapped people from dying when the debris is removed. Awake and alert victims often die suddenly when toxins trapped in the crushed extremities rush to the major organs when the pressure is removed.

## **High Frequency Radio Communications**

In the event of a cataclysmic event such as a major earthquake or hurricane, normal communications may be inoperable. The Task Force Communications Specialists will provide local on-site communications through radios and field telephones as well as long distance communications through high frequency radio techniques. An exercise was conducted where the USAR team communicated with another USAR team in Virginia Beach, VA by bouncing radio signals off the layers of the upper atmosphere.

## **Team Valuable Resource to Local Public Safety Officials**

The team of 125 volunteers from fire, police, EMS and private sector agencies in Massachusetts and all the New England states, is headquartered in Beverly, MA. It is one of 27 federally sponsored teams nationwide. Jeffrey A. Bean, Regional Director for the Federal Emergency Management Agency, Bud Iannazzo, Acting Director, Mass. Emergency Management Agency, State Fire Marshal Stephen D. Coan, and USAR Team Leaders Mark Foster and Steve Clendenin explained this valuable resource to the gathered New England fire chief. ♦



*USAR Team shoring concrete*

# MASSACHUSETTS FIRES IN 1998

## 25,872 Fires - Down 8% From 1997

59 Civilian Deaths  
568 Civilian Injuries  
1 Fire Service Death  
768 Fire Service Injuries  
\$181 Million in Property Damage  
3,882 Reported Arsons



### Structure Fires

10,612 Fires - Down 7%  
54 Civilian Deaths  
491 Civilian Injuries  
698 Fire Service Injuries  
\$158 Million  
939 Arsons Reported



### Motor Vehicle Fires

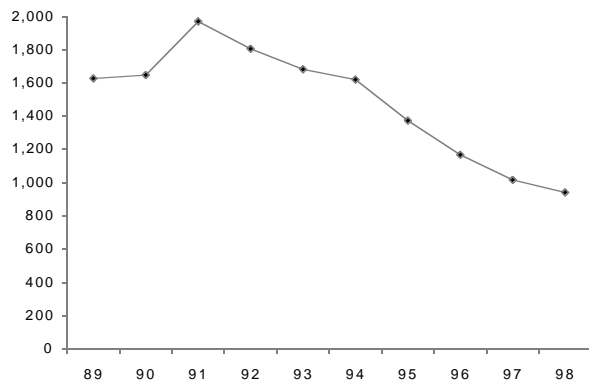
5,565 Fires - Down 9%  
5 Civilian Deaths  
27 Civilian Injuries  
24 Fire Service Injuries  
\$19 Million in Property Damage  
836 Arsons Reported



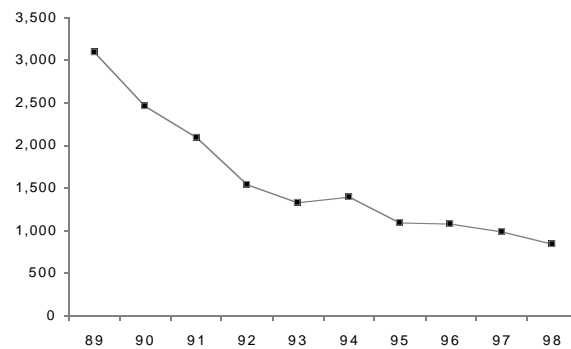
### Other Fires

9,695 Fires - Down 9%  
0 Civilian Deaths  
50 Civilian injuries  
46 Fire Service Injuries  
\$4 Million  
2,107 Arsons Reported

### Structure Arson by Year



### Motor Vehicle Arson by Year

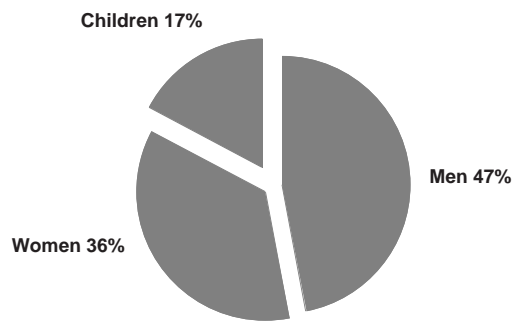


Structure arson fell 8% and motor vehicle arson fell 15% from 1997 to 1998. Since 1986, motor vehicle arson has fallen 85%. Since the Burned Motor Vehicle Reporting Law took effect in 1987, owners of burned vehicles must personally file a report at the fire station before they can collect on their fire insurance. Vehicle arson began dropping at that time.

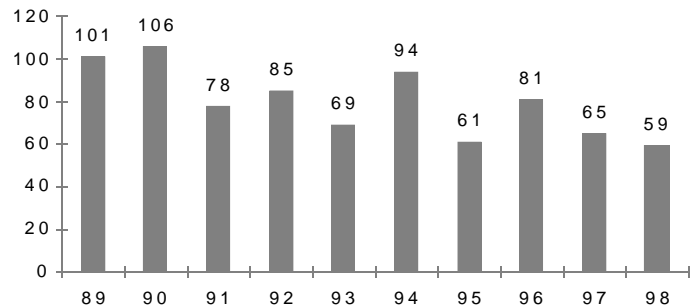
For statistical purposes, a fire is considered arson when the ignition factor is listed as incendiary or suspicious.

# MASSACHUSETTS FIRE DEATHS IN 1998

**Civilian Fire Deaths**

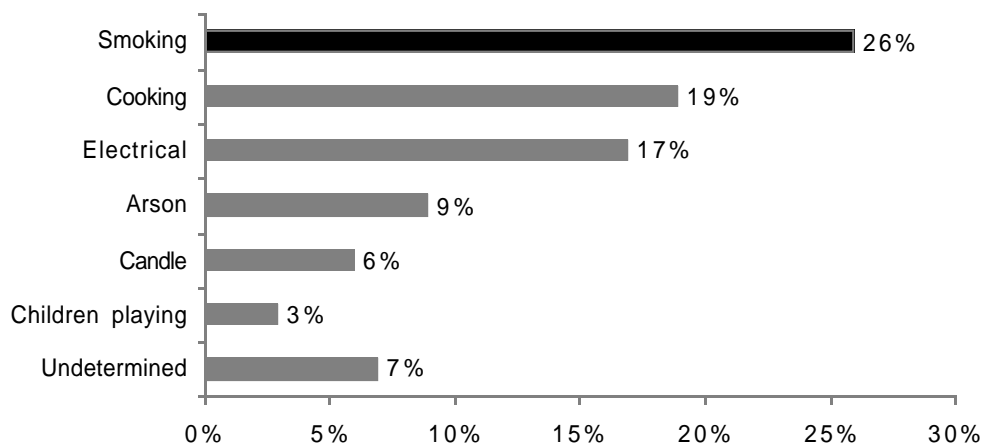


**Fire Deaths by Year**



- 59 civilians - 28 men, 21 women and 10 children - died from fires in 1998.
- Seventeen percent (17%) of fire deaths were children under 18 years of age. Forty-seven percent (47%) of fire victims were adults between the ages of 18 and 65. Thirty-six percent (36%) of fire victims were elderly.
- In 1998, civilian fire deaths were at their lowest since World War II.
- 91% of the civilian fire victims died in the so-called *safety* of their homes.
- Over half of the fire deaths in people's homes occurred in homes with no working smoke detectors. Either no detectors were installed or the detectors did not operate.
- Improper or unsafe use of smoking materials caused 26% of the structure fire deaths, the leading cause.

**Causes of Structure Fire Deaths**



**Test your smoke detector and plan your escape!**  
*Fire doesn't wait!*

Department of Fire Services Office of the State Fire Marshal  
P.O. Box 1025 • State Road • Stow, MA 01775





## STUDENT AWARENESS OF FIRE EDUCATION

### 4th Year of S.A.F.E Young Heroes

The following are short stories about the most recent young heroes from the Student Awareness of Fire Education (S.A.F.E.) Program.

#### **Amesbury**

##### **Lyndsey French**

In early 1999, 8-year old Lyndsey French knew exactly what to do when her brother knocked over a candle and burned his hand. Because of what she had learned through the S.A.F.E. Program, she took her brother over to the sink and ran cool water over his hand to "cool the burn."

##### **Bill Regan**

In the fall of 1998, 8-year old Bill Regan was playing with his sister in the yard when he looked over to his neighbor's house and saw flames and sparks coming from the chimney. He ran inside his own house, told his cousin who was babysitting to notify the neighbors that they had a chimney fire, should go to their meeting place, and to call 9-1-1 to report the fire emergency. The fire department contained the fire in the chimney.

#### **Belchertown**

##### **Devlynn Hresko**

On February 27, 1999, second-grader Devlynn Hresko was visiting friends in nearby Ware. Her friend's parent and the six children smelled smoke and went looking for the source. Someone opened the bathroom door and smoke from a dryer fire came pouring out. Eight-year old Devlynn yelled for everyone to "crawl low under the smoke and get out!" All seven people evacuated safely. Her friend's parent

reported to the fire department that Devlynn was as cool as a cucumber and knew exactly what to do.

#### **Chatham**

##### **Graeme Milley**

On October 25, 1998 while playing in the woods near his home, Graeme Milley came upon a group of children playing with fire. The children attempted to convince 5-year old Graeme Milley not to tell anyone about their activities. They did this while using a toy gun and spent construction cartridges, telling him they were real bullets. Graeme left the area as the children continued to set brush on fire. He went directly to a neighbor's house and brought the neighbor to the site to ensure the fire was extinguished. Later, he told his parents. Graeme learned about fire safety from the Chatham S.A.F.E. Program at the Rocking Unicorn Preschool.

#### **Dracut**

##### **David Morrisison**

On September 7, 1998, thirteen-year old David Morrisison used a 1A-2BC dry chemical extinguisher from his home to put out a fire on a neighbor's rear deck. A gas grill fire had ignited the deck and the exterior wood siding. He told firefighters that he had learned how to use an extinguisher properly and to keep calm through the Dracut S.A.F.E. Program.

#### **East Longmeadow and South Hadley**

##### **Nina Calvanese**

On October 16, 1998, 14-year old Nina Calvanese of South Hadley was babysitting for a 3-year old and a one-year old in East Longmeadow. She was

bathing the youngest when the smoke detectors sounded. Smoke was filling the first floor from the cellar. She evacuated the children, reported the fire and turned off the oil burner switch. She received her fire safety training in the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> grades in East Longmeadow. The fire department credits her with preventing injuries and limiting the damage from the oil burner blowback.

#### **Holden**

##### **Melanie Rose Feinberg**

On October 6, 1998, Mrs. Feinberg and her 8-year old daughter Melanie were in the kitchen when a grease fire started on the stovetop. While Mrs. Feinberg attempted to put out the fire, Melanie grabbed the cordless phone, went in the foyer near the garage, and called 9-1-1 for help. She calmly reported the fire. Mrs. Feinberg was treated for smoke inhalation. Melanie and her mother credit the Holden S.A.F.E. Program teaching the third grader how to respond correctly.

#### **Hannah White**

On Sunday October 25, 1998, 5-year old Hannah White and her family were making blueberry muffins. They did not hear the timer go off, and the muffins burned. The smoke set off all the smoke alarms in the house. While Hannah's parents were handling the situation, they overheard their kindergarten instruct her younger brothers to get out of the house. She told them, "Come on, get out, let's go." The Whites were glad it was not a serious fire emergency, but were delighted with their youngster's response. The Holden Fire Department had only made one

*Continued on page 22*

visit to her school.

### **Holliston**

#### **Holly Campbell**

On March 10, 1999 at approximately 9:00 pm while on her bed Holly Campbell heard her brother crying. Holly went to her mother's room and discovered a fire in the room. Holly notified the babysitter, got her brother out to safety, and called 9-1-1. Holly had acquired her knowledge of fire and life safety the previous year in third grade.

### **Marblehead**

#### **Jess Lipkind, Max Sherman, and Philip Freidin**

In December, 1998, Jess Lipkind, Max Sherman, and Philip Freidin were celebrating Hanukkah with their families at Philip's house. The Hanukkah candles were lit and as Philip leaned over, his shirt caught on fire. Philip was unaware of this, but Jess and Max saw what was happening. They alerted Philip and reacted quickly and calmly. Jess went directly to an adult, while Max stayed with Philip and encouraged him to stop, drop and roll. Philip didn't move, nor did he panic. This kept the fire from spreading and the situation controllable. The parents helped Philip to stop, drop

and roll, and a potentially serious situation was avoided. Jess, Max and Philip made all the right choices, they remained calm and showed their understanding of the correct actions to take when faced with a fire

### **Marlborough**

#### **Molly Phalen**

On the evening of February 23, 1999, Terri Phalen was preparing dinner for her family when the fuzz on her sweater came into contact with the flame from the gas stove. Terri noticed the flame on her sleeve and in a panic, attempted to take the sweater off while calling out to her husband Michael for assistance. Her five-year old daughter Molly, a kindergarten student at the Jaworek Early Childhood Center saw what happened and said, "Mommy, stop, drop and roll!" Through the S.A.F.E. Program, the fire department had visited her preschool and taught several fire safety lessons. This success story came to light during a fire station tour for Molly's Daisy Girl Scout troop.

### **Milford**

#### **Jamie Pasquarello**

On February 26, 1999, 13-year old Jamie Pasquarello, a seventh grader at the Stacy Middle School, was babysitting for her 21-month old sister while her mother ran a few quick errands. Her sister suffered a seizure and Jamie who had recently graduated

from the Supersitter babysitter course, immediately and calmly called 9-1-1 for help. She went to the hospital with her sister where her frantic mother caught up with her. Hospital staff credit Jamie's prompt actions with preventing any harm from coming to her sister.

### **Orange**

#### **Christopher Bryant**

On November 10, 1999, 10-year old Christopher Bryant called 9-1-1 and told the dispatcher that he thought his grandmother was not breathing. After dispatching an ambulance to the scene, the 9-1-1 operator gave instructions to Christopher on how to give rescue breathing. Due to his calm and positive attitude, Christopher was able to revive his grandmother before police, fire and EMS arrived. In recounting the story to authorities, Christopher stated he learned about 9-1-1 from his mother and school safety programs.

### **Wakefield**

#### **Nicholas Masse**

Four-year old Nicholas Masse learned fire safety through the S.A.F.E. Program at his daycare. He noticed a fire in the oven in the kitchen at home and immediately reported it to a grown-up as he had learned to do in his preschool from the Wakefield Fire Department. ♦

## **Family Fire Safety Day**

***Saturday, September 18  
MDC's Houghton's Pond  
Reservation, Milton***

The Metropolitan District Commission (MDC) and the Department of Fire Services will sponsor the 4th annual Family Fire Safety Day on September 18, 1999 from 11 am to 4 pm. This special event will be held at Houghton's Pond in the MDC's Blue Hills Reservation in Milton.

Family Fire Safety Day is a family event designed to promote fire awareness through safety activities, displays, children's games, helicopter and fire engine demonstrations and tours. Antique and new fire engines will be on display at the event. Smokey Bear and Sparky® the Fire Dog will be on hand. There is no admission charge and the food concession will be open. The weather is expected to be wonderful. Young and old alike will be treated to many exciting fire safety activities, demonstration and displays.

S.A.F.E. Educators, Fire Departments or organizations wishing to participate should contact Andy Reardon at the S.A.F.E. Program (978) 567-3385.

EMail: [Andy.Reardon@state.ma.us](mailto:Andy.Reardon@state.ma.us) ♦

## **5th Annual Fire and Safety Public Education Conference**

***September 30 -  
October 1, 1999***

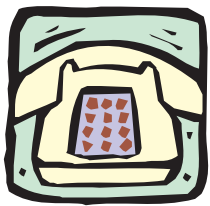
This Conference will be held September 30 to October 1 at the Westford Regency Hotel. Registration materials containing the workshop descriptions for the 5th annual Fire and Safety Public Education Conference will be distributed to all fire departments and other interested parties. To be included on this mailing list e-mail [Jennifer.Mieth@state.ma.us](mailto:Jennifer.Mieth@state.ma.us) and be sure to put the word conference in the subject line. The Massachusetts Public Fire and Safety Education Task Force, which serves as the planning committee each year, is pulling together numerous new and interesting workshops. The goal of this conference is to provide basic training for new fire educators through workshops that will interest our community partners, as well as new skill development workshops for experienced life safety educators.

### ***Public Fire and Safety Educator of the Year Award***

Do you know a firefighter, EMT, nurse, Lion's Club member, teacher, elder service worker or health educator that has made a significant contribution to life safety education in the community, the region, or the state? Nominate them for the Educator of the Year Award. Forms will be included in the registration materials. The Award will be given at the Conference at lunch time ♦

## **June 10 Public Hearing on Above Ground Tank Regulation**

On June 10, 1999 at 11 a.m. there will be a public hearing on proposed State Fire Marshal regulations on above ground tanks. The proposed regulations, 502 CMR 5:00, concern the maintenance, inspection and record keeping requirements and suspension and revocation procedures for above ground storage tanks or containers of a capacity to hold 10,000 gallons or more. The hearing will be held in Room 111 at the Massachusetts Department of Fire Services, State Road, Stow, MA. Copies of the proposed regulations may be obtained by contacting Peter Senopoulos at (978)567-3183. ♦



Public Fire Safety Education

# HOTLINE

## 1-877-9 NO-FIRE

(1-877-966-3473)

This Hotline was setup by the State Fire Marshal so the public can easily obtain free fire safety information and have questions answered by trained life safety educators.

***Call for:***

- Fire Safety Information
- Burn Prevention Information
- Fire Safety Programs for Childcare Providers
- Senior Fire Safety
- Student Awareness of Fire Education (S.A.F.E.) Program
- Fire and Life Safety Programs

The goal of this Hotline is to help the public become more aware of the dangers of fire and to offer prevention tips that will help to keep them and their families safe.

The **DFS Quarterly** is published every March, June, September, and December. If you have some news-worthy information to share with the fire service, you are welcome to submit articles to:

Jennifer Mieth, Editor, DFS Quarterly, Dept. of Fire Services, P.O. Box 1025, Stow, MA 01775. (978) 567-3381 or Internet Address: [Jennifer.Mieth@state.ma.us](mailto:Jennifer.Mieth@state.ma.us)

The **DFS Quarterly** is published by the Massachusetts Department of Fire Services as a service to the fire service community.



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